

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) is required in order to make an examiner's amendment which places this application in condition for allowance. During a telephone conversation conducted on June 6, 2008, Douglas Hahm requested an extension of time for TWO MONTH(S) and authorized the Director to charge Deposit Account No. 23-0975 the required fee of \$230 for this extension and authorized the following examiner's amendment. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. The application has been amended as follows to Amendment of April 9, 2008:

Claim 31: line 6, after “,” insert — hooking the pulling element into the  
tensioning device; pre-tensioning the pulling element  
between the pin and the tensioning device before hooking  
the pulling element to the pin or the tensioning device; --  
line 13, after “mouth” insert --; --  
lines 14-15, delete  
line 16, delete “hooking the pulling element to the pin or the  
tensioning device,” and insert – wherein —  
line 16, delete “comprising” and insert – of the pulling element  
comprises --

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melba Bumgarner whose telephone number is 571-272-4709.

The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cris Rodriguez can be reached at 571-272-4964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Melba Bumgarner/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3732